



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/618,858	07/14/2003	Gregory D. Smith	2835-71459	6984
23643	7590	04/17/2006	EXAMINER	
BARNES & THORNBURG 11 SOUTH MERIDIAN INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46204				KYLE, MICHAEL J
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3677	

DATE MAILED: 04/17/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/618,858	SMITH ET AL.	
	Examiner Michael J. Kyle	Art Unit 3677	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 February 2006.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 10, 13 and 18-20 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 14-17 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-6, 11 and 12 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 7-9 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ . |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-4 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bartsch (U.S. Patent No. 5,555,960). Bartsch discloses a handgrip (84), a retraction mechanism (95, 96) comprising a slider member (95) and a bias member (96), a flexible member (78) coupled to the handgrip and extending at least partially about the slider member (95). The retraction mechanism normally exerts a retraction force on the slider member.

3. With respect to claim 2, the retractions mechanism (95, 96) translates linearly to pay out the flexible member (78) when an extension force acting opposite to and greater than the retraction force is applied to the handgrip to pay out the flexible member to an extended position.

4. With respect to claim 3, Bartsch discloses the device to include a housing with front (67) and rear (77) surfaces with the retraction mechanism mounted therebetween. The flexible member extends from the handgrip, through a first guide aperture (99) formed in the front surface. The second opposing end is coupled to an anchorage (on 95).

5. With respect to claims 4 and 11, Bartsch discloses a mounting plate (105, see embodiment in figure 21) with a second guide aperture (103). The mounting plate is configured to mount on one side of a wall (101) to the housing (bounded by 67 and 77) where the housing is disposed on the other side of the wall.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 5, 6, and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bartsch in view of applicant's admitted prior art ("APA"). Bartsch discloses the wall as being integral with a travel case, not a vehicle or building. On page 1 of applicant's specification, the use of known stabilizing device in vehicles and buildings is discussed (2nd paragraph under "BACKGROUND AND SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION"). As addressed earlier, Bartsch discloses the device to include a wall. In that it is known to use stabilizing devices that include a wall (such as Bartsch's) in the environment of a vehicle or building (as taught by APA), one having ordinary skill in the art would recognize the wall of Bartsch may be integrally incorporated into a vehicle or building. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to make the wall integral with a vehicle or building, as taught by APA, in order to provide stability to vehicle occupants or assist building occupants in standing or sitting.

Allowable Subject Matter

Art Unit: 3677

8. Claims 7-9 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

9. Claims 14-17 are allowed.

Response to Arguments

10. Applicant's arguments filed February 2, 2006, have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues that claim 1 has been amended consistent with the allowable subject matter of claim 7. Examiner respectfully disagrees. In the previous Office Action of November 2, 2005, claim 7 was indicated as being allowable if re-written to include all limitations of the independent claim 1, and all intervening claims. In this case, claim 7 depends from claims 4/3/2/1. These intervening claims were not included in the amended claim 1. Nor were all the limitations of claim 7.

Conclusion

11. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

12. A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

Art Unit: 3677

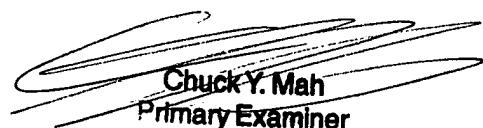
however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

13. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael J. Kyle whose telephone number is 571-272-7057. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 8:30 am - 5:00 pm.

14. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Judy Swann can be reached on 571-272-7075. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

15. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

mk



Chuck Y. Mah
Primary Examiner